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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7480

BILL NUMBER: HB 1276

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 7, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Electronic textbooks.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Goodin

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that after June 30, 2014, "textbook" refers only to material in an electronic or a digital format. It provides that beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a school corporation may rent or provide only textbooks that are in an electronic or a digital format.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Under this bill, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the State Advisory Committee on Education and the State Board of Education would have to adopt only textbooks that are in an electronic or a digital format.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Under this bill, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a school corporation may rent or provide only textbooks that are in an electronic or a digital format. The fiscal impact would depend on whether replacing hard copy textbooks with digital ones is more cost effective. Some corporations may have to take out loans to cover the initial start up costs. However they have this ability now to cover the purchase of new textbooks. Corporations may also have to train both staff and students on using the electronic displays. Other issues that corporations may have to consider include policies for internet use, parental concerns, insurance for the electronic displays, and the availability of textbooks in digital format.

Background: The State Board of Education has already granted school corporations a blanket waiver to use internet resources to replace or supplement traditional textbooks, and to choose their own text books if they so desire. The waiver covers all subjects where the state adoption process applied in the past. Corporations

are also encouraged to collaborate to lower the cost of acquiring textbooks and other learning resources.

In 2010, Clearwater High School in Florida switched to a digital format for Mathematic and English textbooks. One advantage for students was that they had fewer textbooks to carry. The e-reader which replaced the textbooks weighs less than one pound.

School administrators stated that in order to cover the initial startup costs they had to borrow against future years' appropriations. Unofficial estimates indicate that the school budgeted around \$600,000 to equip approximately 2,200 teachers and students with e-readers. The cost for an e-reader was approximately \$178.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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